

FROM THE DIRECTOR: A Time for Reflection and Looking Ahead

Since this is the season when many legislative sessions conclude, spring and summer are naturally a time for reflection. You enjoy looking back at what you and your colleagues accomplished and how new laws and budgets will impact the rest of your year. It's also a time when you look forward to attending conferences and traveling abroad to embark on trade missions or enhance sister-city relationships.

As you make these plans, remember that the State Department can be invaluable in helping you achieve your international goals. The Office of Intergovernmental Affairs can assist by providing you with briefing materials, connecting you to U.S. embassies, reviewing legal agreements, or directing you to other U.S. Government agencies that can assist with unique requests you might have.

In addition to helping you on these requests, we are also gearing up to travel to many of the conferences you and your colleagues will be attending later this spring and summer. We always enjoy the face-to-face exchanges these events provide. So please look for the State Department booth at a conference near you!

— Anthony Welcher, Director,
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

The State Department & Climate Change: Implementing America's Bold Response

The U.S. is leading the world in significant investments in climate change science and technology. Through these activities, America strives to develop and deploy clean energy technologies, promote energy efficiency, and sustain economic growth.

Without the U.S. investments, the world's understanding of scientific and technical issues relating to climate change would be far less robust.

During her May 24, 2007 visit to Silicon Valley-based Tesla

Motors, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice climbed aboard a sleek, black electric sports car to highlight the importance – and potential – of alternative fuel technologies. Secretary Rice traveled at 110 miles per hour, in the closed-course demonstration.

"We've been looking at some of the ways that energy efficiency can improve our ability to get off of hydrocarbons," Secretary Rice said, "to improve the environment and contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which is an issue of great concern to me."

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Recognizing that climate change is a global challenge that demands action, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice prepares for a test ride in an electric sports car with Tesla Motors' Tom O'Leary. © AP Photo



A student in Nairobi, Kenya's St. Elizabeth's School smiles during the author's visit.

DOS Photo by Nicole Deaner

My Mission to East Africa

How are America's friends in East Africa using U.S. aid dollars? The State Department's BJ Goergen names 3 priorities: HIV/AIDS, malaria and child hunger.

In early March, I was part of a delegation representing the White House, State Department and USAID that traveled to Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. We planned the trip to witness the impact of U.S. foreign assistance and public diplomacy programs in Africa, including the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the President's Malaria Initiative.

Our group was jointly led by David McCormick, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs at the White House, and Dina Powell, Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

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The State Department & Climate Change: Implementing America's Bold Response (cont.)

International Cooperation

A week later, President Bush announced U.S. support for developing a new framework on climate change by the end of 2008. The President believes the new framework should include both developed and developing nations, and that climate change must be addressed in a way that enhances energy security and promotes economic growth.

In July 2005, President Bush announced that the United States was joining Australia, China, India, Japan and the Republic of Korea in the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate. This U.S.-led effort accelerates the development of clean energy technologies through voluntary public-private partnerships. Together, partner countries account for about half of the world's population and more than half of the world's energy use.

Protecting Forests

In April 2007, Australia's Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, Malcolm Turnbull, met with Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Paula J. Dobriansky to discuss deforestation and other activities that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

Since deforestation creates almost 20% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, Minister Turnbull highlighted Australia's recently announced Global Initiative on Forests and Climate. Australia has pledged to work together with other countries to help save the world's forests and reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.

Did You Know?

Climate Change & The Bush Administration

The U.S. is leading the world in significant investments in climate change science and technology.

- Since 2001, the U.S. Government has committed nearly **\$29 billion** for climate change related activities.
- In 2006, President Bush and Congress authorized nearly **\$4 billion** to advance practical climate change technologies.

Under Secretary Dobriansky welcomed the Australian Initiative and added that the President's Initiative Against Illegal Logging also makes forest protection a high priority.

Other Global Efforts

Earlier this spring, Senior Climate Negotiator and Special Representative Dr. Harlan L. Watson led the U.S. delegation to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group III. The meeting was scheduled to review and approve a Summary for Policy Makers on "Mitigation of Climate Change" in Bangkok, Thailand, April 30-May 4, 2007.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was established under the auspices of the United Nations Environmental Program and the World Meteorological Organization to study the scientific and technical aspects of climate change.

For more information on how the State Department is responding to the challenges of Climate Change, visit: www.state.gov/app.

During Historic Visit, Queen Elizabeth II Honors State & Local Leaders

State and local government leaders were a major part of Queen Elizabeth II's historic visit to Virginia, Kentucky and Washington, DC in early May.

Virginia Governor Tim Kaine was the first elected official to greet Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, after their arrival in Richmond on May 3. Later that day, Her Majesty addressed legislators in Virginia's newly restored State Capitol.

"Prince Philip and I are delighted to be here in your State Capitol today, designed by that great Virginian Thomas Jefferson and so painstakingly restored over recent years," Queen Elizabeth said. "I would like to congratulate everyone involved in this most impressive project."

The royal couple's 6-day visit to the United States commemorates the 400th anniversary of Jamestown. The Virginia General Assembly traces its origins to the House of Burgesses at Jamestown in 1619.

"Virginia is enormously proud of its history and heritage," said Senator John H. Chichester, President pro tempore of the Virginia State Senate. "We are delighted to have the Queen celebrate with us the beautifully restored Capitol – the keystone of Virginia's past, present and future."

Other state and local officials also met with Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip:

- Williamsburg, Virginia Mayor Jeanne Zeidler was seated with Queen Elizabeth during lunch on May 4.
- Norfolk, Virginia Mayor Paul Fraim welcomed Prince Philip to the Armed Forces Memorial in Downtown Norfolk, on May 4.
- Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher welcomed the royal couple to the Kentucky Derby on May 5.
- Washington, DC Mayor Adrian Fenty hosted Queen Elizabeth, Prince Philip and First Lady Laura Bush during a visit to Children's National Medical Center on May 8.

During her speech to Virginia legislators, Her Majesty called U.S.-British relations "one of the most durable international collaborations anywhere in the world at any time in history." She continued: "That is a lasting legacy of Jamestown, that is something worth commemorating, and that is why I am pleased to be here."



At Virginia's newly restored State Capitol, Chief William P. Miles of the Pamunkey Indian Tribe greets Queen Elizabeth II and Governor Tim Kaine. May 3, 2007. Photo by Michael White, VA Governor's Office.



The State Department Role in Missile Defense

Expert Calls Strategy "Insurance Policy" Against Growing Threat

The ballistic missile threat to the United States and allies is real and growing. Some of the world's most threatening regimes, such as North Korea and Iran, could have long-range missiles capable of reaching the U.S. and Europe before 2015.

Current NATO missile defense efforts only provide protection against shorter range threats, and would not be capable of defending against longer range missiles launched from the Middle East to Central or Western Europe.

"It has become clear that the United States cannot continue to use 20th century tools to meet 21st century challenges," said Paula A. DeSutter, Assistant Secretary of State for Verification, Compliance, and Implementation. "Because Cold War-style deterrence is not sufficient, missile defense is a reasonable insurance policy."

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My Mission to East Africa (cont.)

Helping Africa Fight AIDS

Almost immediately, our delegation was humbled by the exuberant welcome we received. We visited some of the premiere HIV/AIDS treatment and research facilities and met with renowned researchers and health advocates who are leading Africa's fight against the disease.

To help the people of Africa and other focus countries in Southeast Asia and the Caribbean combat AIDS, President Bush in 2003 announced PEPFAR. This 5-year, \$15 billion, multifaceted approach to combating AIDS around the world is the largest commitment ever by any nation for an international health initiative dedicated to a single disease.

In Africa, we saw how critical PEPFAR has been to the success of such efforts. We were personally touched by the stories we heard about lives that have been saved and hope that has been restored through the great compassion of the American people.

On May 30, 2007, President Bush announced his intention to work with Congress to reauthorize PEPFAR. If approved, the new five-year, \$30 billion proposal would double America's initial commitment made in 2003.

Hope in Nairobi

Another highlight of my trip was our visit to the Coptic Hope Center in Nairobi, Kenya. This PEPFAR-supported hospital also provides holistic treatment and counseling for people with HIV/AIDS. PEPFAR funds have allowed this faith-based organization to expand its capabilities to serve one of the neediest areas in Nairobi. The grace, devotion and commitment of everyone at the center was truly remarkable.

I was also touched during our visit to St. Elizabeth's Lunga Lunga School, located in one of Nairobi's poorest neighborhoods. The informal settlements that surround Nairobi are some of the largest in the world; as many as 500 people live on just 1 acre of land. Almost two-thirds of the people in these impoverished communities survive on less than one dollar a day. And in some instances, up to 400 people share one toilet.

The children at St. Elizabeth's are fed their only meal of the day thanks to the World Food Programme's McGovern-Dole International Food for



The author and Matthew McIlvenna, World Food Programme Co-Director for Uganda, embrace children in Kampala, Uganda. DOS Photo by Andrea McDaniel

Education and Child Nutrition Program, named for Ambassador and former Senator George McGovern and former Senator Robert Dole, in honor of their tireless commitment to global child nutrition.

At the school, we were joined by the world's fastest marathon runner, Paul Tergat, who was himself once sustained by the World Food Programme and now serves as one of their "Ambassadors Against Hunger." Paul was an incredible hit with the 1,300 children and with my delegation. He also gave away soccer balls that Nike had donated for the occasion.

Clear Results

The U.S. foreign assistance programs we visited place the accountability for results on the leaders of developing nations. These programs have saved millions of lives – my group saw first hand what kind of impact this is having on the future. The generosity, innovation and accountability of President Bush's unprecedented international development record has created a new results-focused paradigm, which will shape international development for decades to come.

BJ Goergen is the Director of the State Department's Office of Private Sector Outreach for Public Diplomacy.

For more information on these U.S. Government-funded global assistance programs: Child Hunger McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/excredits/FoodAid/FFE/FFE.asp>, HIV/AIDS President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief: <http://www.pepfar.gov/> and Malaria President's Malaria Initiative: <http://www.fightingmalaria.gov/>

The State Department Role in Missile Defense (cont.)

Negotiations With Europe

If formal missile defense basing negotiations are favorably concluded, the U.S. will field 10 long-range ground-based defensive interceptors in Poland and a tracking radar in the Czech Republic.

These proposed U.S. missile defense assets would defend the U.S. and much of Europe against long-range ballistic missile threats launched from the Middle East. The U.S. would benefit from greatly enhanced protection from attacks originating in the Middle East, while Europe would gain defenses where none previously existed.

“A number of our allies have recognized the threat North Korea and Iran pose – and are modifying their positions, bringing them closer in line to ours.”

– Paula A. DeSutter, Assistant Secretary of State for Verification, Compliance, and Implementation

Opposition Softens

As permitted, the U.S. gave notice in December 2001 of its intention to legally withdraw from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, in order to begin developing and deploying capabilities to protect America. The Treaty terminated on June 13, 2002.

“As a result, the U.S. was criticized heavily by some in the international community, including some allies and friends,” Assistant Secretary DeSutter said. “Gradually, quite a number of our allies have recognized the threat North Korea and Iran pose – and are modifying their positions, bringing them closer in line to ours.”

During a major policy speech in January 2007, former French President Jacques Chirac said missile defense “cannot be a substitute for deterrence – but it can supplement it.”

“This adjustment in France’s position is significant,” Assistant Secretary DeSutter said.

On June 7, 2007, Russian President Vladimir Putin said he wanted to work with the United States on missile defense and was pleased with the “constructive dialogue” with President Bush.

“If we take into account the concerns of each other, if we make this work transparent and if we provide for an equal access to the system, then we will have no problem,” Putin said. “And I’m of course satisfied with the spirit of openness in which we discussed this problem today on behalf of the President of the United States.”

State Department Role

President Bush has directed the State Department, along with the Department of Defense, to promote international missile defense cooperation and to negotiate appropriate arrangements.

The State Department represented the U.S. in the NATO working group that established, for the first time, an assessment of the risk to NATO from the evolving ballistic missile capabilities of rogue states.

For more information on the State Department’s role in missile defense, please visit: <http://www.state.gov/t/vci/rls/rm/64126.htm>

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- Direct state and local officials to the appropriate State Department office for international travel or foreign policy concerns.

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On the Horizon, Summer 2007

JUNE 2007

- 10-13 Council of State Governments, Spring Meeting, Fajardo, Puerto Rico
- 22-26 U.S. Conference of Mayors, 75th Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, California
- 28-30 National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, 24th Annual Conference, Orlando, Florida.

JULY 2007

- 13-17 National Association of Counties, Annual Conference & Exposition, Richmond, Virginia
- 18-21 Sister Cities International, Youth Conference, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
- 15-18 National Association of Secretaries of State, Summer Conference, Portland, Oregon
- 25-29 American Legislative Exchange Council, 34th Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 25-27 National Lt. Governors Association, Annual Meeting, Williamsburg, Virginia

AUGUST 2007

- 5-9 National Conference of State Legislatures, Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts